

REMARKS

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-4, 7-8, 12, and 16, drawn to polynucleotides, vectors and host cells comprising the same, and compositions and kits comprising the same ;

Group II, claims 5-6, 14, and 19, drawn to polypeptides, and kits and compositions comprising the same;

Group III, claim 9, drawn to transgenic organisms;

Group IV, claims 10 and 18, drawn to antibodies, and compositions and kits comprising the same;

Group V, claims 11 and 15, drawn to screening method utilizing a polynucleotide or cells comprising said polynucleotide;

Group VI, claim 13, drawn to screening method utilizing a polypeptide;

Group VII, claim 17, drawn to screening method utilizing an antibody.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group II, Claims 5-6, 14 and 19.

The Examiner is additionally reminded that because the present Restriction is between a product (claims 5, 6, 14 and 19) and its process of use (claims 11, 13 and 15), where Applicants elect claims directed to the product, and a product is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claims will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 821.04. Such process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product are entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Furthermore, in the event of rejoinder, Applicants understand that the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims must be fully examined for patentability according to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.104.

The Examiner has required a further restriction of a specific polypeptide and the corresponding encoding nucleic acid.

For the purposes of examination of the present application, Applicants elect the species of SEQ ID NO:18 (encoded by SEQ ID NO:19).

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Thomas J. Siepmann, Ph.D., Registration No. 57,374, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

NOV 20 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.

Registration No.: 28,977

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicants